Maiya K. 5/M  
10-1-09 to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
GT Reading

Students on Strike

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| **Story Elements** | **My Thinking** |
| \*Character \* | John A. Stokes  \*12 years old  \*is Africa American  \*careful  \*scared of whites  \*left out  \*Member/President of the five county “New Farmers” organization  \*smart  \*courageous  \*logical  \*reasonable |
| \*Setting\* | \*Farmville, Virginia  \*Kingsville, Virginia  \*All during the Great Depression  \*Price Edward County  \*In his house  \*In the woods  \*New York City  \*His school |
| \*Plot\* | \*He starts high school  \*he works for a farmer and is discriminated by him  \* joins a strike committee to try to get a new school for Negros  \*the committee then decides to try for a non-segregated school  \* The school children and parents vote to decide to try for a New Negro, or a non-segregated school  \*the non-segregated school wins by one vote  \*the cross in the courtyard of his high school was burned  \*many blacks were scared that violence would happen in their neighborhood  \*strike ended  \*two people were fired from their jobs by the school board: Mr. Jones from the high school’s principal and John Lancaster as county agent for colored farmers  \*NAACP filed a lawsuit against Prince Edward County school district  \*courts ruled that schools had to desegregate  \*for 5 years Price Edward County decided to close white and black schools rather than desegregate  \*court forced Price Edward County schools to reopen, the publicly funded schools had to desegregate |

Summary

In Students on Strike, John A. Stokes tells about his life struggles in school- segregation. From his life experiences working for a discriminating farmer, John learns that segregation isn’t right. He also saw his older brother and sister being treated unfairly. At last, he can’t stand it anymore. Right then, like magic it seems other high school students felt this way too. He is asked to join a strike committee!

They tried to start small. They wanted a new school with more resources like the whites only school, but then it becomes clear that that’s not going to be good enough. They must try to create a non-segregated school! Teens in their high school must choose. Will they go with the strike or not? Unfortunately, the teens are forced to either go to school or stay off the property.

After lawsuits and lots of hard work, the courts ruled that schools must desegregate! It would have been wonderful, except Price Edward County Schools refused and closed both black schools and white schools for almost five years! After one more court ruling, they must reopen and have no more segregation! Finally, what the strike committee had worked for paid off!